

For longtime residents of Washington State, it is jarring to see Mount Rainier without snow on its peak. In just 4 days this summer, 4 days in late June, the peak of the heat dome, the mountain lost 30 percent of its total snow cover. This is a visual demonstration that climate change is real.

The lack of snow became more notable as the summer progressed, and this heat is an ecological issue and an economic issue. Washington State's shellfish industry is among the largest in the Nation, contributing \$270 million to the State economy and supporting nearly 3,000 jobs.

The heat dome this summer devastated shellfish farms that make up the core of this industry. Shellfish growers reported shellfish baking to death, literally, in shallow water and on the beach. Taylor Shellfish, located in my district, reported losing over 2 million clam seeds.

As our planet warms and climate change takes hold, these extreme weather events are becoming more common, costing lives and critically damaging our environment and our economy.

Against this backdrop, our need to pass transformational climate change legislation becomes even more stark and more urgent. We must invest in electric vehicle infrastructure. We must dramatically expand public transit. We must build an energy grid using renewable sources of power.

We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create tens of thousands of jobs and build a sustainable society for future generations. My district, my State, and our planet depend on it.

INDEPENDENCE IN INDIAN COUNTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, October 11 is, in South Dakota, Native American Day.

Now, when America turns its eyes to Indian reservations, so often—too often—the focus is on poverty, despair, dysfunction. But there are wonderful stories from Indian Country as well, stories of hope, opportunity, hard work, success, entrepreneurship.

With that in mind, I want to talk to you about Tashina Red Hawk. She is a 17-year-old member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. She is an excellent student, and she is a rodeo queen. She is my friend, and let me tell you, Madam Speaker, she is impressive.

Tashina graduated early from high school, and then, when the pandemic hit and her college classes went online, rather than do what so many teens did, spending more time on social media or video games, she decided to become an entrepreneur. It is just an amazing story.

Her local coffee shop had remained closed during the pandemic, so Tashina

saw an opportunity. She wanted to save money for college.

Again, as I said, she is an excellent student. She wants to be a veterinarian. Now, she knows that path is not going to be easy, and it is going to take a few dollars in the bank. She knew that this business opportunity would give her a wonderful chance.

Here she is in front of Tashina's Coffee. She also wanted to make sure that her local community, her small town, had the same amenities that large towns do, and I think we can all agree that a powerful cup of coffee is a great amenity. From firsthand experience, I can tell you that her coffee really is excellent.

She works so hard, Madam Speaker, long days, long weeks, to make this business a success. Tashina is passionate about instilling a sense of independence and hard work among other young people on her reservation.

This woman is going places. I am proud to say that she is my friend.

Her father sums it up well. He said, Tashina "is not a victim. She is an advocate."

Now, Tashina's story is one of many throughout Indian Country and the State of South Dakota that don't get the attention that they deserve. I think of so many Tribal leaders that I have met with over the years who choose self-reliance: Leslie Crow, our office's inaugural Ben Reifel fellow. She is a teacher, a college instructor, a small business woman.

I think of Lakota Vogel. She is the executive director of the Four Bands Community Fund, and she works with Tribal members to build economic opportunity on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation.

I think of Myrna Thompson, secretary of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, whose long-term service as secretary of that Tribe has been a consistent and reliable source of leadership for her people.

Madam Speaker, there are so many others. It has been clear to me that Native American people across this country are resilient. And those who choose hard work and independence over reliance, they are so often successful, and they are so often strong.

They provide us a great opportunity. We can be more like them. We can be more like Tashina and Lakota and Leslie and Myrna.

This Native American Day, we should all take a moment to admire their hard work and entrepreneurship, and we should follow their example. If there were more Tashina Red Hawks, we would have a better Nation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH JEAN BECK VUNA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true public servant. We use that term frequently

and often too casually, but the individual I am speaking about unquestionably defines the term and sets an example we should all strive to achieve.

Elizabeth Jean Beck Vuna has served as my district office casework manager for 20 years. She has served the Congress and the American people for over 33 years. Prior to serving my constituents, she worked for Congressman Glenn Anderson and Congressman Stephen Horn from Long Beach, California.

It is worth noting that the bitter partisan politics of today have never touched Elizabeth's commitment to service. She has worked for Democrats and Republicans without concern for political philosophy. It is that dedication, that determination to help people, and that diligence that truly makes her irreplaceable.

Elizabeth will be retiring on September 30. When she does, we will be losing one of the most effective and compassionate caseworkers in the history of the Congress. Yes, I know that sounds boastful, but it is quite simply the truth.

Little did I know when I hired Elizabeth in 2002 what a profound impact she would have on the lives of so many of my constituents and on me.

Elizabeth began her career in public service because, when her brother returned home from the Vietnam war, he could find no assistance for his PTSD and Agent Orange-related illnesses. She decided it would be her mission to ensure that other veterans would not face a similar fate and often focused her efforts in helping veterans obtain the benefits they so richly deserved.

She also felt an affinity for immigrants since she and her husband adopted five orphaned children from Tonga. That experience led her to become a local expert in international adoption.

Her compassion for all immigrants also led her to become a recognized expert in the field, and she diligently advocated for all immigrants to be afforded all the benefits legally available to them.

The number of constituents Elizabeth has helped in a substantive manner are in the tens of thousands, and I am probably undercounting.

She has mentored other congressional staff and given guidance and direction to everyone who was lucky enough to ask her to do so.

Not a week goes by that I do not hear from some of my constituents about this miracle or feat that she accomplished on their behalf, whether it is large or small.

As her retirement became known, my office received dozens of emails thanking her for her service and asking if she couldn't stay just a little longer.

□ 1015

She has assisted the many studios in my district as well as the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the California Institute of Technology, but perhaps

more importantly, she has helped individual constituents, who needed a fierce champion for their cause, help navigate a bureaucracy that can seem arcane and senseless at times.

Elizabeth is a native Californian, the daughter of Wilbert and Ellen Beck.

Her large family is comprised of her husband, Steve; sons, Jesse and Sean, who tragically prematurely passed away; adopted Tongan children, Malia, Angela, Michelle, Joshua, and Jacob; and over a dozen grandchildren.

She will be missed in our office and by our constituents beyond measure, and I cannot thank her enough for her service.

I ask all Members to join me in thanking Elizabeth Jean Beck Vuna for her unwavering dedication to public service and wish her good health and prosperity in retirement.

PULLING BACK THE PRO-CHOICE CURTAIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, the pro-abortion lobby cheered last week as House Democrats rushed through H.R. 3755, the abortion on demand until birth act.

Throughout the course of the debate last Friday, I listened as my colleagues across the aisle took to their bully pulpit and sang the praises of the abortion industry in America.

The talking points that afternoon were so distorted from reality that it was as if members of the abortion lobby were the ones that wrote them.

Some Members claimed that passing this bill was a duty that must be fulfilled to restore the rights of women. Others claimed it was a duty that upheld the oath they took to defend the Constitution.

Madam Speaker, no matter the justification that was given, the American people can see that this is yet another elaborate smokescreen coming from the majority.

But what really shook me to my core was how abortion was being normalized in those moments. Women's health was being used as a euphemism for abortion, as if the health of the baby that is destroyed is inconsequential, not to mention that half of the babies that are aborted are female. You cannot claim that this issue is one of "women's health" when that is the case.

The same sentiment applies to the phrase "reproductive freedom" that was thrown around multiple times. Explain to me how the process of destroying an innocent baby resembles freedom for the baby. It is outrageous to link abortion and the concept of freedom together.

These are the kinds of deliberate spin tactics that attempt to hide the horrors of abortion from the American people. No set of elaborate talking points from pro-abortion advocates can

truly mask the societal ill that is abortion.

Unfortunately, that only skims the surface of how abortion is being advertised. The left's narrative on abortions has evolved to the point where this immoral procedure is now associated with pride. Abortion is not prideful. It is not a form of empowerment. Abortion is robbing a human being of God's most precious gift: life.

While the left's narrative grows only more devious, the voices of those who survived abortions, or whose parents chose life, continue to be silenced. The stories of these men and women are invaluable, and they deserve to be heard by everyone. That is the truth of the matter.

Madam Speaker, Republicans fundamentally understand that life begins at conception and ends at natural death. We believe that life is a precious and sanctified gift that God has bestowed upon us.

I am proud to stand alongside so many constituents of North Carolina's Fifth Congressional District, as well as my Republican colleagues in the people's House, in fighting to protect life.

The unborn deserve nothing less than unwavering advocates who stand for them. I will always serve as a strong voice for the unborn, and I do not plan on stopping anytime soon.

RECKLESS AND SHORTSIGHTED RECONCILIATION PACKAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise to discuss this reckless and shortsighted reconciliation package and what I believe to be its worst effects on the American people.

The budget reconciliation process exists to reduce the national deficit with a majority vote, not to let the majority party jam partisan legislation through this Congress. Since January, Speaker PELOSI and House Democrats have not used reconciliation for its intended purpose but rather to pass the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan on party lines and now the \$3.5 trillion budget blueprint. Here, we see the opposite of the intended use for the reconciliation process and the opposite of the word "reconciliation" itself. This is division.

Senator BERNIE SANDERS, chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, said that under this budget, no middle-income family would pay more in taxes. That is not true. The reconciliation bill includes damaging tax increases, falling largely on the shoulders of middle-income families, small business owners, and family farms. This bill would be the largest tax-and-spend measure in America's history and would increase the national debt to \$45 trillion by 2031. In addition to the devastating spending and tax hikes, it would allow the Federal Government to intervene even more in our daily lives and kill countless jobs.

Unfortunately, the Senate version of this package could be even worse. Right now, the House version of the bill keeps stepped up basis intact, which protects family farms from being taxed out of existence, and it does not include the requirement that banks report to the IRS all transactions over \$600, which is patently ludicrous. I am prepared to offer an amendment on the final bill if either of these two provisions, amongst others, are changed.

This is the largest tax-and-spend bill in the history of the country. Only 1 percent has even been scored by the Congressional Budget Office. It would result in a whopping \$10,600 per American in new spending. We are spending money we don't have on things that we don't need, and I urge this Congress to join me in opposing this horrible legislation which will weaken our great Nation and reduce our freedom.

A PATH TO HEALING AND RECONCILIATION

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss what I see as the path to healing and reconciliation in our country.

We have a promise from God about how to heal our Nation. It is very simple, and it is from II Chronicles. The Lord says: "If my people who are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

It is almost as though God crafted this message for our present moment. I am proud to be part of the crew of people on this Earth who strive to live by God's promises: those who follow Jesus. You can find us throughout Kansas and from Austin, Texas, to Hamilton, Montana, to Simmons, Kentucky, to Thompson, Connecticut.

In this country, so many people advance against one another in jealousy and pride, they rush to judgment and they rob each other of the dignity and respect we owe our fellow citizens when we should be carrying each other's burdens. If we don't stop this behavior, we will incur the punishment it deserves: enmity, discord, and separation.

I think of my daughter when I tuck her in at night and my son when we go fishing. I don't want them to live in a country that is playing the dangerous game of division and hatred for the next 99 years, but a world of hope, peace, and love. If our country keeps rejecting God, we will only make it harder for ourselves to accomplish this.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF DR. BARRY FLINCHBAUGH

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of a truly great Kansan, Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh, who died last year at the age of 78.

Dr. Flinchbaugh taught my ag policy class at Kansas State University, which is the best class I took at college. He had a larger-than-life demeanor; was committed to production agriculture; was involved, at some